

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION-EAST  
PSC BOX 20042  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0042

MCECST

**2401-PAT-1004 and 0300-PAT-1008/9/10 Patrolling Fundamentals**

**TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Given an order with a mission to conduct combat operations, while wearing a fighting load, prepare for combat to ensure the individual is prepared to accomplish the mission.  
(2401-PAT-1004)
2. Given a patrol order, an assignment in a patrol, and wearing a fighting load, perform individual actions in a patrol in accordance with tasks and commander's intent.  
(0300-PAT-1008)
3. Given a patrol order, a threat, and an assignment in a patrol, while wearing a fighting load, perform immediate actions upon contact with the enemy to provide swift and positive reaction to the threat.  
(0300-PAT-1009)
4. Given an order, vehicle, and assigned weapon, an assignment in a unit, while wearing a fighting load, perform individual actions from a vehicle to provide security for assigned sector of fire.  
(0300-PAT-1010)

**ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Given a list of choices, identify the phases of combat in accordance with reference MCRP 3-10A.4 Marine Rifle Squad.  
(2401-PAT-1004a)
2. Given a list of choices, identify the elements of a warning order in accordance with reference MCTP 3-01A Scouting and Patrolling.  
(2401-PAT-1004b)

3. Given a list of choices, identify the elements of five paragraph order in accordance with reference MCTP 3-01A Scouting and Patrolling.

(2401-PAT-1004c)

4. Given a list of choices, identify the types of patrols in accordance with reference MCRP 3-10A.4 Marine Rifle Squad.

(0300-PAT-1008a)

5. Given a list of choices, identify the definitions of patrol control measures in accordance with reference MCRP 3-10A.4 Marine Rifle Squad.

(0300-PAT-1008b)

6. Given a patrol order scenario, an assignment in a patrol, while wearing a fighting load, perform directed individual actions in a patrol to achieve optimal mission performance in accordance with reference MCRP 3-10A.4 Marine Rifle Squad.

(0300-PAT-1008c)

7. Given a patrol order, assigned weapon, and an assignment in a patrol, while wearing a fighting load, perform immediate actions while crossing a danger area in order to negate any threat in accordance with references MCDP 1-0 Marine Corps Operations, MCRP 3-10A.2 Infantry Company Operations, MCRP 3-10A.4 Marine Rifle Squad and MCTP 3-01A Scouting and Patrolling.

(0300-PAT-1009a)

8. Given a patrol order, assigned weapon, and an assignment in a patrol, while wearing a fighting load, perform immediate actions while breaking contact in order to negate any threat in accordance with references MCDP 1-0 Marine Corps Operations, MCRP 3-10A.2 Infantry Company Operations, MCRP 3-10A.4 Marine Rifle Squad and MCTP 3-01A Scouting and Patrolling.

(0300-PAT-1009b)

9. Given a list of choices, identify terminology associated with convoy/motorized operations in accordance with reference MCRP 3-40F.7 Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Tactical Convoy Operations (TCO).

(0300-PAT-1010a)

10. Given a Convoy/Motorized Operations scenario, perform individual actions during a security halt, to ensure optimal unit performance within the given mission in accordance with reference MCRP 3-40F.7 Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and

Procedures for Tactical Convoy Operations (TCO).  
(0300-PAT-1010b)

## 1. PATROLLING BASICS.

a. **PATROL is defined as:** a detachment of ground, sea or air forces sent out for the purpose of gathering information or carrying out a destructive, harassing, mopping-up or security mission.

(1) **The mission to conduct a patrol** may be given to a fire team, squad, platoon or company.

b. **The Purpose of Patrols.** To give Commanders current information about the enemy, the terrain, and to employ the unit effectively.

(1) **Patrols** are a means of gaining information, destroy enemy installations, capture enemy personnel, perform security missions or prevent the enemy from gaining information.

### c. **Two Types of Patrols:**

(1) **Reconnaissance Patrols** - gather information about the enemy, terrain or resources. Relying on stealth rather than combat strength. **There are three types of Reconnaissance Patrols;** (*Route, Area and Zone*)

(2) **Combat Patrols** - a fighting patrol assigned missions that require engagement with the enemy in combat. Larger and more heavily armed than reconnaissance patrols. There are four types of Combat Patrols; (*Raid, Contact, Ambush and Security*)

### d. **Four Means of Patrol Movement;**



(1) **Foot Patrols** - the most common movement means;

(a) **Foot Patrol Advantages;**

- Fewer restrictions as to terrain that can be covered.
- Are more difficult for the enemy to detect.
- Provide thorough coverage within limits of range.
- Are generally not inhibited by weather.

(b) **Foot Patrol Disadvantages;**

- Travel slowly.
- Carry limited quantity & types of equipment/supplies.
- Range and area coverage is relatively restricted.

(2) **Motorized Patrols** - where terrain & roads permit;

(a) **Motorized Patrol Advantages;**

- Covers more terrain at faster pace.
- Carry larger quantity & types of equipment/supplies.
- Requires patrolling units to keep up the pace.

(b) **Motorized Patrol Disadvantages;**

- Restricted to certain types of terrain.
- Tend to bypass areas that may be advantageous to and/or occupied by enemy forces.

(3) **Waterborne Patrols** - where waterways permit;

(a) **Waterborne Patrol Advantages;**

- Where the water is used as an objective entry point.
- Where waterways are the actual patrol route.

(b) **Waterborne Patrol Disadvantages;**

- Limited by the location of waterways.
- Tend to bypass areas that may be advantageous to and/or occupied by enemy forces.

(4) **Helicopter-borne Patrols** - where terrain is extremely difficult;

(a) **Helicopter-borne Patrol Advantages;**

- Where the enemy situation precludes the use of motorized patrols.
- Where airways are the actual patrol route.

(b) **Helicopter-borne Patrol Disadvantages;**

- Significantly reduces stealth capability or element of surprise.
- Tend to bypass areas that may be advantageous to and/or occupied by enemy forces.

e. **Keys to Successful Patrolling:** Regardless of the category or means of conducting a patrol, the keys to successful patrolling are;

(1) **Detailed Planning** - all possibilities considered.

(2) **Productive, Realistic Rehearsals** - each patrol phase is rehearsed beginning with the objective area.

(3) **Thorough Reconnaissance** - physical survey of route & objective or use of maps and photos.

(4) **Positive Control** - The Patrol Leader maintains positive control to include all patrol preparations.

(5) **All-Around Security** - maintained at all times.

f. **Patrol Organization:** is a two part process;

(1) **General Organization** - patrol personnel organized.

- **Patrol Leader** - platoon leader.
- **Assistant Patrol Leader** - platoon sergeant.
- **Navigator**
- **Radio Operator** - Company tactical net.
- **Radio Operator** - Patrol tactical net.
- **Corpsman**
- **First Squad** - Security element.
- **Second Squad** - Support element.
- **Third Squad** - Assault element.

(2) **Task Organization** - mission tasks assigned to each of the above listed patrol personnel & elements.

g. **Patrol Preparation:** For a patrol to succeed, all members must be well trained, briefed, and rehearsed. The patrol leader must have a complete understanding of the mission and a thorough understanding of the enemy and friendly situations.

(1) **Mission** - The mission assigned to a patrol must be clear and oriented toward one objective with a specific task and purpose.

(2) **Patrol Size** - Generally, a patrol should contain the least number of members needed to accomplish the mission. Combat missions ordinarily require larger patrols than reconnaissance missions.

(3) **Determining Patrol Requirements** - The need for conducting patrols derives from the commander's stated mission. By considering the mission, along with time available, the commander develops the overall concept of operations to include the patrol plan and the specific tasks for each patrol.



(4) **Providing the Patrol Leader Information** - Once a Commander has determined a patrol requirement, in addition to allowing for preparation time, the following information is given to the Patrol Leader;

- An explanation of the mission.

- General routes (defined by checkpoints) or exact routes (defined by avenues of approach or terrain features).
- Enemy composition, disposition, and strength.
- Location of friendly troops.
- Outposts or other security elements through which the patrol is to pass.
- Terrain conditions.
- Other patrol missions & routes.
- Patrol departure & return times.
- Method of reporting information.
- Challenge & Passwords.
- Special Instructions.
- Barrier/ Obstacle plans.
- Fire Support available.

(5) **Patrol Leader Duties** - Once a Patrol Leader has his patrol mission and all pertaining information, he organizes and prepares the patrol by using the six troop-leading steps (BAMCIS);

- **B**egin Planning.
- **A**rrange for reconnaissance & coordination.
- **M**ake reconnaissance.
- **C**omplete the plan.
- **I**ssue the order.
- **S**upervise.

(6) **(BAMCIS)** Explained -

(a) **Begin Planning** - The patrol leader begins by evaluating all factors affecting the mission by using **(METT-T)** which consist of;

- **Mission** - the mission assigned to the patrol
- **Enemy** - what is known / suspected of enemy presence
- **Terrain** and **Weather** - ground, vegetation, visibility
- **Troops** and **Support Available** - friendly situation



- **Time Available** - the constraints & impact of time on preparation and mission accomplishment

(b) **Arrange for Reconnaissance & Coordination** - The patrol leader arranges reconnaissance to observe as far forward as possible and also coordinates with the appropriate commanders for the patrol's "passage of lines" and supporting fires.

(c) **Make Reconnaissance** - The patrol leader uses personal reconnaissance to answer questions that arise from the map reconnaissance and METT-T evaluation.

- **Specific points include;**

- Passage Points
- Lanes through obstacles
- Locations of friendly posts
- Possible approach and return routes
- Enemy positions
- Intermediate observation points on the way

(d) **Complete the Plan** - The patrol leader prepares the patrol order to;

- Spell out the details & Assign tasks to subordinates
- To explain the entire endeavor for ease of understanding by all members of the patrol.

(e) **Issue the Order** - The patrol leader asks for a status report on the initial preparatory tasks assigned to subordinate leaders and specialists when the warning order was issued.

- When the patrol leader has completed all planning & preparations, the patrol members are assembled.
- Roll call is taken & the prepared order is issued.
- **The mission must be unmistakably clear so all subordinate leaders can act with unity of purpose.**

(f) **Supervise** - Inspections are vital to mission success. The Patrol Leader inspects the following;

- Camouflage & ID Tags
- Equipment, weapons & ammunition.
- "Silence" - noise prevention during movement
- Items that could provide information to the enemy (e.g., letters and papers) remain behind.
- Unnecessary equipment and excess weight remain behind.

(g) **Supervise** (Continued) - In addition, the Patrol Leader questions each patrol member to ensure the following is known;

- Planned routes (primary and alternate).
- The fire support plan of the patrol.
- The individual's role: what to do and when to do it.
- What others are to do and how their actions impact.
- Challenges and passwords, codes, reporting times, radio call signs, frequencies, and any other pertinent details.
- **Rehearsals ensure the operational proficiency.**

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## **2. MOVEMENT TO & RETURN FROM THE OBJECTIVE AREA.**

a. **Passage of Lines:** is an operation in which a force moves forward or rearward through another force's combat positions with the intention of moving into or out of contact with the enemy.

b. **Control:** While on the move, the patrol leader positions himself to best communicate hand and arm signals to the patrol. The assistant patrol leader moves at or near the rear of the patrol. All patrol members assist by staying alert and passing on signals and orders.

c. **Navigation:** One or more members are assigned as navigators for the patrol. Their function is to assist the patrol leader in maintaining direction by the use of a compass.

(1) The patrol leader assigns at least two members as pacers to keep track of the distance from point to point. The average of their count is used to approximate the distance traveled. Pacers are separated so they do not influence each other's count.

d. **Checkpoints:** are predetermined points, used as a means of controlling movement, a registration target for fire adjustment or reference for location.

(1) These locations are decided upon before the patrol leaves, so that both the patrol members and parent unit will know the patrol's location when it reports in.

e. **Rally Points:** are an easily identifiable point on the ground where units can reassemble and reorganize if they become dispersed.

(1) It should provide cover and concealment, be defensible for at least a short time, and be easily recognized and known to all patrol members. **There are three types of Rally Points;**

(a) **Initial Rally Point** - is within friendly lines where the patrol can rally if it becomes separated before departing.

(b) **In-route Rally Points** - are between the initial rally point and the objective rally point; and from the objective rally point back to the point where the patrol reenters friendly lines.

(c) **Objective Rally Point** - is located nearest the objective where the patrol makes final preparations prior to approaching the objective.

f. **A Danger Area** - is any place where the patrol is vulnerable to enemy observation or fire.

- Open Areas
- Roads & Trails
- Obstacles
- Known Enemy Areas

- Minefields
- Rivers, Streams & Lakes

(1) The patrol leader plans for crossing each danger area and includes these plans in the order.

(2) The patrol leader sends scouts to reconnoiter the far side of each danger area. Once the scouts report that the far side is clear of the enemy, the remainder of the patrol crosses the danger area. As each individual or group crosses the danger area, they are covered by those remaining & by those who have crossed.

g. **Halt & Hide:** When a Patrol is required to halt for an extended period in an area not protected by friendly troops, the patrol moves into a location which, by the nature of the surrounding terrain, provides passive security from enemy detection. Such an assemble area is termed a **Hide**.

(1) **To establish a Hide -**

(a) Cease all movement during daylight hours to avoid detection.

(b) Hide the patrol while the patrol leader conducts a detailed reconnaissance of the objective area.

(c) Rest and reorganize after extended movement.

(d) Reorganize after a patrol has infiltrated the enemy area in small groups.

h. **Enemy Contact:** A patrol may make contact with the enemy at any time. Two types of physical contact with the enemy are **Meeting Engagement** and **Ambush**.

(1) Meeting Engagement - is a combat action that occurs when a moving force, incompletely deployed for battle, engages an enemy at an unexpected time and place. It is an accidental meeting where neither the enemy nor the patrol expect contact and are not specifically prepared to deal with it.

(2) **An Ambush** - is a surprise attack from a concealed position.

i. **Enemy Contact Immediate Actions:** are designed to provide swift and positive small unit reaction to visual or physical contact with the enemy.

(1) **Arm-and-hand signals associated with immediate actions are;**

(a) **"FREEZE"** - When the patrol detects the enemy but is not itself detected, the situation requires the immediate, in-place halt of the patrol.

(b) **"ENEMY IN SIGHT"** - When the patrol and enemy detect each other, the situation requires the patrol to take immediate cover.

(c) **"HASTY AMBUSH (RIGHT OR LEFT)"** - immediate action is used to avoid contact and to prepare to initiate an unplanned ambush on the enemy.

(2) **Verbal Commands associated with immediate actions are;**

(a) **"FIRE"** - Ensuring initiation of an ambush.

(b) **"AIRCRAFT"** - When an aircraft detects a patrol and makes a low level attack.

(c) **"CONTACT"** - Used in a meeting engagement, members nearest the enemy open fire and shout, "CONTACT", followed by the direction of the incoming attack: "FRONT", "LEFT", "REAR" or "RIGHT".

(d) **"TEN O'CLOCK-TWO HUNDRED"** means the patrol should move in the direction of ten o'clock for 200 meters.

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### 3. PATROL ORDERS AND REPORTS.

a. **Patrol Warning Order;** is issued by the Commander, in (SMEAC) format, as soon as practical with all available information included to assist patrol members in preparation.

(1) **Situation.** Friendly and enemy situation information necessary for initial preparation.

(2) **Mission.** Statement of what the patrol is to accomplish, and the purpose for accomplishing it. When, how, and where will be discussed in the patrol order.

(3) **Execution.**

(a) **Task Organization.** General patrol organization and assignment of responsibilities if known; otherwise promulgate in the patrol order.

(b) **Tasks.** Alert subordinate leaders to patrol tasks (e.g., stream crossing, helicopter rappelling, demolitions) requiring preparation prior to departure.

(c) **Coordinating Instructions.**

- Time schedule and location for individual preparation, rest, briefings, inspection, rehearsal, and departure.
- Time, place, uniform, and equipment for receiving the patrol order.
- Tasks for subordinate leaders to direct and supervise the initial preparation.
- Preliminary guidance to specialists and key individuals regarding their roles and organization within the patrol.

(4) **Administration and Logistics.**

(a) Individual uniform, equipment, weapons, and prescribed load of rations, water, and ammunition.

(b) Crew-served weapons (if required) and guidance regarding distribution of weapons and ammunition during movement.

(c) Special equipment requirements (wire cutters, demolitions, radios, flashlights, infrared equipment, mines, binoculars) and their distribution during movement.

(d) Restricted or prohibited items.

(5) **Command and Signal.**

(a) Designation of assistant patrol leader and his role in preparation.

(b) Designation of navigators and radio operators (if required).

(c) Brief outline of patrol leader's schedule for preparation, and where he can be reached.

b. **Patrol Order;** is issued by the Patrol Leader, in (SMEAC) format, and follows a warning order. Any of the following subjects that have been addressed in the warning order may be omitted with the exception of the mission statement. A patrol order is more detailed than a 5-paragraph squad order in that a great deal of attention is given to individual duties. The patrol order also provides orientation information, both enemy and friendly, that impacts the patrol and enemy forces. This information can include, but is not limited to, weather, terrain, visibility, NBC considerations, local population situation, terrain model and/or map orientation, and behavior.

(1) **Situation.**

(a) **Enemy Forces.**

- Composition, disposition, and strength are based on Size, Activity, Location, Unit, Time, and Equipment (SALUTE).
- Capabilities and limitations to Defend, Reinforce, Attack, Withdraw, and Delay (DRAW-D).
- Enemy's most probable course of action.

(b) **Friendly Forces.**

- Mission of next higher unit (task and commander's intent).
- Adjacent unit missions (task and intent). Also identify left, front, right, and rear.

(c) **Attachments and Detachments.** (date/time eff.)

(2) **Mission.** The mission is the task to be accomplished, and its purpose (who, what, where, when, and why). For patrols, specify if the mission or time has priority.

(3) **Execution.**

(a) **Commander's Intent & Concept of Ops.**

- Commander's intent.
- The concept of operations tells the where, how, and who and lays out the patrol leader's general scheme of maneuver and fire support plan. It outlines the following:
  - Task organization of the patrol.
  - Movement to the objective area, to include navigation method.
  - Actions in the objective area.
  - The return movement, to include navigation method.
  - Use of supporting forces (including illumination, if required).

(b) **Subordinate Element Missions.** Tasks and purpose are assigned to elements, teams, and individuals as required.

(c) **Coordinating Instructions.** This paragraph contains instructions common to two or more elements, coordinating details, and control measures applicable to the patrol as a whole. At a minimum, it includes -

- Time of assembly in the assembly area.
- Time of inspections and rehearsals (if not already conducted).
- Time of departure and estimated time of return.
- Location of departure and reentry of friendly lines and the actions associated with departure and reentry.
- Details on the primary and alternate routes to and from the objective area.
- Details on formations and order of movement.
- Rally points and actions at rally points.
- Final preparation position and actions at this position.
- Objective rally point and actions at this point.
- Actions at danger areas.
- Actions in the event of enemy contact.
- Details on actions in the objective area not covered.
- Estimated time of patrol debriefing upon return.



(4) **Administration and Logistics.**

(a) Changes/additions to uniform and equipment.

(b) Instructions for handling wounded and prisoners.

(5) **Command and Signal.**

(a) **Command Relationships.** Key leaders/command chain.

(b) **Signal.** Challenge/password, hand/arm signals, special signs, radio frequencies and call signs.

c. **Patrol Evacuation Checklist;** MCRP 12-10B.1, Appendix C provides a comprehensive checklist of critical patrolling steps, techniques, and procedures to aid unit leaders to critique patrol performance during training.

<b>WARNING ORDER</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Did the PL ensure all patrol members were present before issuing the warning order?		
Did the PL issue a brief statement on the enemy situation?		
Did the PL issue a brief statement on the friendly situation?		
Did the PL state the mission in a clear, positive manner?		
Did the PL list all members of the patrol including attachments?		
Was the chain of command for the patrol covered fully?		
Were all members of the patrol assigned positions and duties (i.e. squads and teams)?		
Were all the necessary individual duties assigned?		
Did the PL follow established principles organizing the patrol into squads and teams?		

d. **Verbal Messages, Written Messages & Messenger;**

(1) **Verbal Messages** - The patrol leader sending a verbal message should make it simple, brief, and avoid using numbers and names. The messenger should accurately repeat the message back to the patrol leader before leaving.

(2) **Written Messages** - The patrol leader must distinguish between fact and opinion. Information about the enemy should include: strength; armament and equipment; actions; location and direction of movement; unit destination, if known; time enemy

was observed; and the patrol's location when the observation was made.

(3) **Messengers** - are given exact instructions as to where to deliver the message and the route to take.

e. **Patrol Report:**

(1) **Every Patrol Leader makes a report when the patrol returns.** - The report is made Commander who ordered the patrol. The Patrol Report will include the following;

- Size & composition of patrol.
- Tasks & purpose (mission).
- Time of departure.
- Time of return.
- Routes out and back.
- Terrain (general description to include any manmade or natural obstacles and critical terrain features which, if occupied by either enemy or friendly forces, would allow them to control the surrounding area).
- Enemy (SALUTE).
- Any map corrections (Show on Map).
- Miscellaneous information not covered elsewhere in report.
- Results of enemy encounters.
- Condition of patrol, including disposition of any dead or wounded.
- Conclusion and recommendations.

(2) **Patrol Critique** - After the patrol has rested and eaten, the patrol leader should hold a critique. Constructive criticism is made. It is an excellent time to prepare for future patrols by going over lessons learned as a result of the patrol.



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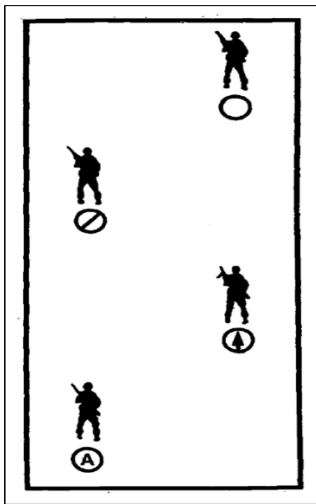
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#### 4. BASIC FIRE TEAM PATROL FORMATIONS.

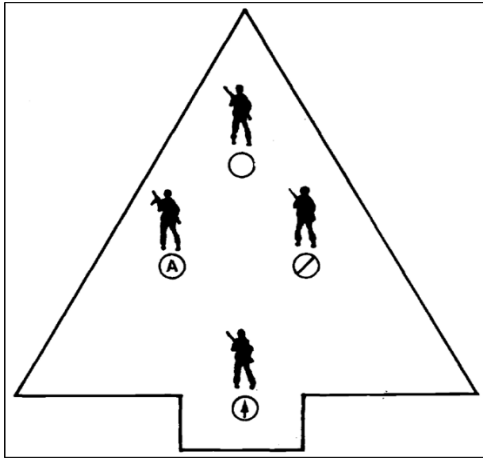
##### a. **Column Formation;**

- Permits rapid, controlled movement.
- Favors fire and maneuver to the flanks.
- Vulnerable to fire from the front and provides the least amount of fire to the front.



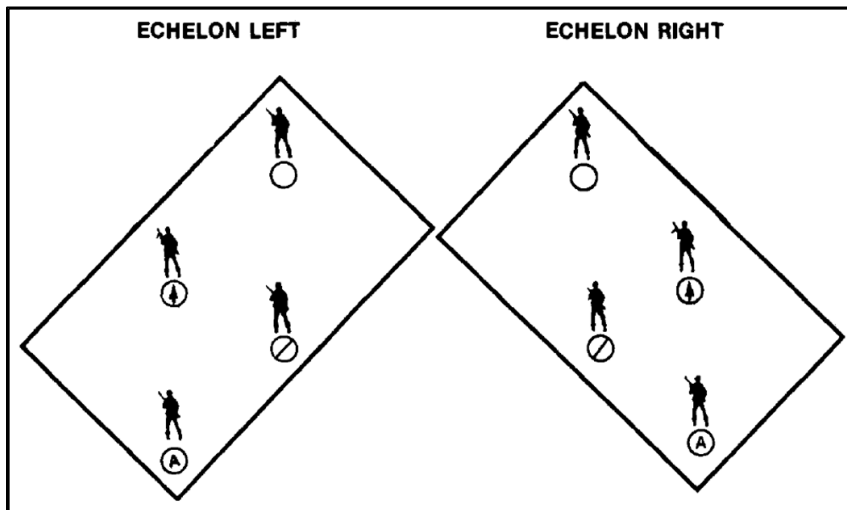
**b. Wedge Formation;**

- Permits good control
- Provides all-round security
- Formation is flexible
- Fire is adequate in all directions



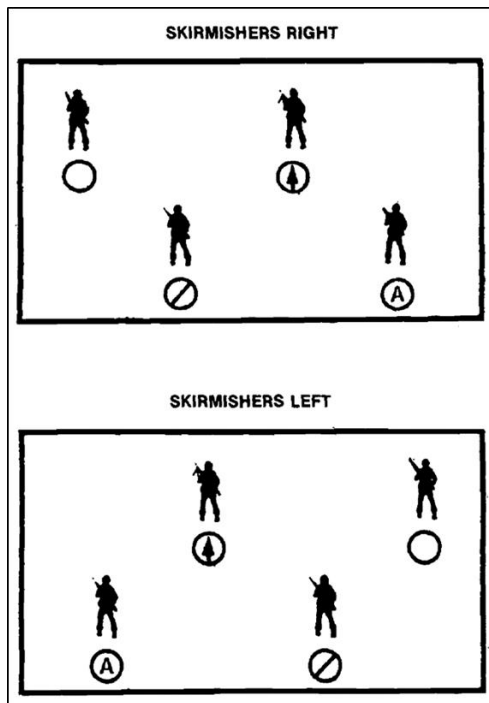
**c. Echelon Formation: (Left or Right);**

- Provides heavy firepower to front and echeloned flank.
- Used to protect an open or exposed flank.



**d. Skirmishers Formation: (Left or Right);**

- Maximum firepower to the front.
- Used when the location and strength of the enemy are known, during the assault, mopping up, and crossing short open areas.



**REFERENCES :**

Commander's Tactical Handbook, MCRP 3-11.1A

Convoy Operations Handbook, MCRP 4-11.3F

MAGTF Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Operations, MCIP 3-17.02

Marine Rifle Platoon, MCWP 3-11.6

Marine Rifle Squad, MCWP 3-11.2

Scouting and Patrolling, MCWP 3-11.3